AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Referring to FIG. 2b, an alternative polarization-maintaining beam router is illustrated. The source pulse enters at the first port 21 of the polarization beam splitter 20. The polarization-maintaining fiber 22 is aligned such that the incoming source pulse will propagate in the polarization-maintaining fiber 22 in an s-polarization relative to the polarization beam splitter 20. For the polarization-maintaining fiber 22, alignment with either propagation axis is permissible. The incoming source pulse is collimated and directed to the second port 23. The second port 23 is coupled to a second polarization-maintaining fiber 24. For the second polarization-maintaining fiber 24, alignment with either propagation axis is permissible. In a fiber-based device, a non-polarization-maintaining dispersion compensating fiber 26 can be directly spliced to the polarization-maintaining fiber 24 attached to the second port 23. Different from Fig. 2a, a faraday rotator mirror was used at the end of the loop to create the double pass. The optical device 30, such as a fiber grating (which ~~is~~ acts as a mirror), is coupled after the Faraday rotator 25, ~~not~~ and is not transmissive. The Faraday rotator 25 and the optical device 30 cause the collimated input pulse to be reflected back into polarization beam splitter 20, but with the pulse polarization rotated by 90°. Due to the polarization rotation, the input pulse can now transit through the polarization beam splitter 20 and is coupled to the third port 28. Assuming that the input pulse propagates along the slow axis in all the polarization-maintaining fibers, then the polarization-maintaining fiber 29 coupled to the third port 28 has to be aligned such that the slow axis matches with the p-polarization relative to the polarization beam splitter 20.